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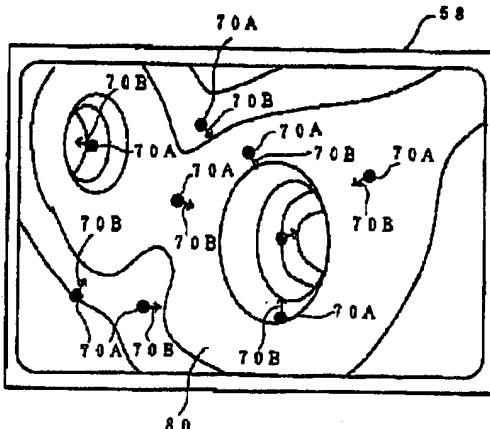
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TITLE : FLUID DISPLAY DEVICE WITHIN
TUBULAR BODY



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a fluid display device within a tubular body which enables visual determination of the flow of a fluid within the tubular body such as blood vessel.

SOLUTION: A three-dimensional image 80 of an internal wall of a blood vessel is displayed on a CRT 58 from a piled three-dimensional image obtained by piling up a plurality of tomographic images containing a volume image. Coordinates of the internal wall of the blood vessel are extracted from the piled three-dimensional image to calculate a flow velocity vector at points in the blood vessel as boundary condition. The direction of bloodstream is displayed by the arrows 70B... on the three-dimensional image of the internal wall of the blood vessel as shown on the CRT 58 based on the resulting flow velocity vector. This enables visually capturing of how the blood in the blood vessel flows.

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